

Claims

1. A device comprising at least two components adjoining each other over a length
and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being
5 attached to each other by first attachment means at a first position and by second
attachment means at a second position, spaced from said first position along said
length, the first and second components being relatively fixed at the first position,
characterised in that at least a first of the components is formed so that, at the
second position, it can move relative to the other component.
- 10 2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component comprises one or
more flexible limb elements having respective free ends having means for
attachment to the other component.
- 15 3. A device according to claim 2, wherein said first component comprises a plurality
of walls defining an enclosure and said limb elements extend from said walls into
the interior of said enclosure.
- 20 4. A device according to claim 3, wherein a first limb element extends inwardly
from one of said walls and a second limb element extends inwardly from an
opposed one of said walls.
5. A device according to claim 1 comprising two second positions, one at each end
of the first component, with the first position being arranged at a central location.
- 25 6. A device according to claim 1, wherein said first component is divided into a
plurality of separate sub-components along the length thereof.
7. A device according to claim 1, wherein one or both of said components are
30 capable of bowing in a direction perpendicular to the adjoining surfaces of said

components and the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% of said adjoining length.

8. A device according to claim 7, wherein the total amount of bow is equal to or less than 0.02% over the normal range of operating temperatures of said device.
9. A device according to claim 1 wherein the first component is of plastics material and the other component is of metal.
10. A device according to claim 9, wherein the first component is a printer vacuum guide member and the other component is a chassis of the printer.
11. A device comprising first and second components adjoining each other over a length and having different thermal coefficients of expansion, the components being attached to each other at a first position and at a second position, spaced from said first position along said length, characterised in that said first and second attachment positions are relatively displaceable in the direction of said length.